

DETAILED ACTION**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Bardell on 12-22-2008. Claims 1, 17, and 27 are amended as follows.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (1. Currently amended) A lead fixation tool comprising:

a proximal portion having a tapered passage therethrough, with the tapered passage narrowing in a direction towards [the] a distal portion; and
a distal portion having a channel in substantially axial alignment with the passage along a longitudinal axis, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion are rotatably coupled so that relative rotation is permitted between the proximal portion and the distal portion [without requiring lateral movement between the proximal portion and the distal portion]; and

an expandable lead pin engagement mechanism disposed within the channel, wherein the engagement mechanism is a C-shaped interference clamp that is axially aligned with the passage and [generates a snap-fit engagement] to

grip a lead connector assembly and remain at a fixed location on said longitudinal axis during said relative rotation of said proximal and distal portions

[with the proximal and distal portion remaining rotatably coupled]; and

a rotation indicator for indicating relative rotation between the proximal and distal portions [while the lead connector assembly is engaged by the C-shaped interference clamp wherein] the rotation indicator includes:

a resilient arm having an actuator; and
a detent, wherein rotation of the distal portion relative to the proximal portion causes the actuator to engage the detent and provide a signal.

17.(Currently amended) A lead fixation tool comprising:

a proximal portion having a guide passage disposed there-through, wherein the guide passage includes a tapered portion having an opening and a lumen interface, with the tapered portion narrowing in a direction from the opening to the lumen interface; and

a distal portion having a connector channel that is axially aligned with the guide passage along a longitudinal axis, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion are rotatably coupled so that relative rotation is permitted between the proximal portion and the distal portion [without requiring lateral movement between the proximal portion and the distal portion];

an expandable engagement collar disposed within the connector channel that is configured for gripping and axially aligned with the guide passage, wherein the engagement [mechanism] collar is a C-shaped interference clamp that is axially

aligned with the passage [and generates a snap-fit engagement] to grip a lead connector assembly and remain at a fixed location on said longitudinal axis during said relative rotation of said proximal and distal end portions [with the proximal and distal portion remaining rotatably coupled]; and

a rotation indicator for indicating relative rotation between the proximal and distal portions [while the lead connector assembly is engaged by the C-shaped interference clamp] wherein the rotation indicator includes:

a resilient arm having an actuator; and
a detent, wherein rotation of the distal portion relative to the proximal portion causes the actuator to engage the detent and provide a signal.

27. (Currently amended) A lead fixation tool comprising:

a housing having a generally circular cross section, the housing including a proximal portion and a distal portion, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion are axially aligned, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion are rotatably coupled [so that relative rotation is permitted between the proximal portion and the distal portion without requiring lateral movement between the proximal portion and the distal portion];

a guide passage for receiving stylet and extending between an opening in the proximal portion to a lumen interface, wherein the guide passage tapers from a larger diameter at the opening to a narrower diameter distal from the opening; a lead receiving channel disposed within the distal end for receiving at least a portion of a connector assembly of a lead, the lead receiving channel having a

longitudinal axis;

an expandable connector pin channel disposed within the lead receiving channel for receiving a connector pin of the connector assembly and axially aligning the connector pin with the lumen interface; and

an engagement collar defining the connector pin channel and configured to grip the connector pin, wherein the engagement [mechanism] collar is a C-shaped interference clamp that is axially aligned with the [passage] lead receiving channel [and generates a snap-fit engagement] to grip a lead connector assembly and remain at a fixed location on said longitudinal axis during said relative rotation of said proximal and distal portions with the proximal [and distal portion remaining rotatably coupled]; and

a rotation indicator for indicating relative rotation between the proximal and distal portions while the lead connector assembly is engaged by the C-shaped interference clamp wherein the rotation indicator includes:

a resilient arm having an actuator; and

a detent, wherein rotation of the distal portion relative to the proximal portion causes the actuator to engage the detent and provide a signal.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner's amendment more particularly points out the invention. Applicant's clamp/collar remains fixed along the longitudinal axis as opposed to claps such as Starkey which are advanced along the axis towards the distal end of the

device when relative rotation between the proximal and distal ends takes place.

Applicant's clamp is more of a resilient socket rather than an clamp that has axial moving elements.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark W. Bockelman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4941. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Layno can be reached on (571) 272 -4949. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mark W Bockelman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3766
December 22, 2008